



The Public Health Guide

Quick facts about Communicable Diseases for medical providers from the Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness

If you have an urgent public health issue, you can reach a public health officer 24 hours a day—call 574-8200. You can leave a message that will immediately be paged to a physician on call. You will receive a call back within 15 minutes.

Who do I call for help when a patient's contacts need prophylaxis?

The Public Health and Wellness Communicable Disease Division staff can be reached at **574-6570** during the day, Monday - Friday, or **574-8200** after-hours to assist with any prophylaxis questions. For cases when contact prophylaxis is indicated, we thank you for any close contacts that are at the bedside for whom you are willing to write prescriptions. For all others, we will identify those at risk and arrange for prophylaxis when appropriate.

What if I have a patient with pertussis?

Standard prophylaxis regimens for close contacts include azithromycin or erythromycin. Appropriate candidates for prophylaxis include all those who live in the same house or work in the same room as an index case, though other close contacts may also merit prophylaxis. Infants under one year of age are at highest risk of severe disease. These children and pregnant women in the last month of pregnancy (who may transmit pertussis to their newborns) merit particular consideration for prophylaxis.

What if I have a patient with meningococcus?

Close contact to a patient with meningococcus is a public health emergency! Most of those close contacts who develop disease will do so in less than 48 hours after exposure. Please contact the Communicable Disease Division, **574-6570**, immediately upon identifying a suspected case. Close contacts that need prophylaxis include those who live in the same household, or have other close contact such as sharing drinks, eating utensils, toothbrushes, or cigarettes, with an index case. Very few health care workers who treat patients with meningococcus have contact that warrants prophylaxis. Prophylaxis regimens for meningococcus include: 1 dose courses of ciprofloxacin, azithromycin, or ceftriaxone; or rifampin for 4 doses over 2 days.

Who do I call with syphilis questions?

All syphilis cases should be reported to the health department! We keep a record of all cases, including documentation of treatment and titers—we can help decide if newborn babies need to be evaluated and/or treated. Call **574-6699** and ask for the syphilis nurse for any questions.



Who do I call if I have rabies exposure questions?

Not all animal bites need rabies vaccination. If you are treating someone with an animal bite, call **574-6570** and ask for the rabies nurse, who will:

- 1) Offer advice regarding the need for rabies vaccination.
- 2) If necessary, arrange for continued rabies immunizations, which are provided by Public Health and Wellness to residents of Louisville Metro. The average cost for a course of rabies vaccine is \$1400. We can assist with arranging for payment by insurance company, or arrange for alternate means of coverage in the event of financial difficulties. The Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness does not deny services if an individual is unable to pay.
- 3) Contact our Environmental Division, **574-6640**, who will assure that a biting animal is quarantined, and follow up in person to evaluate the animal ten days after the bite to assure that the animal is well.
- 4) Contact Animal Control, **363-6609**, to assist with finding and evaluating any stray or potentially rabid animals.

Who do I call with tuberculosis (TB) questions?

Call **574-6570** for recommendations regarding diagnosis and treatment.

Call **574-6617** to schedule a physician appointment for a TB evaluation. We will see patients with latent TB or possible contacts to cases. We see ALL cases of active TB in Louisville Metro in order to provide them with daily direct observed therapy and assure that contacts are tested and treated.

Patients can get a skin test at our TB clinic at 400 East Gray St. any time Monday thru Friday on a walk-in basis (afternoons are less busy than mornings).

A comprehensive list of diseases to be reported to Public Health and Wellness is found on the back of this page.

For more information on these and other Public Health and Wellness services, please visit our website at <http://www.louisvilleky.gov/health>.



REPORTABLE DISEASES

902 KAR 2:020 requires health professionals to report the following diseases to the local health departments serving the jurisdiction in which the patient resides.

REPORT WITHIN 24 HOURS

- *Anthrax
- *Botulism
- *Brucellosis
- Campylobacteriosis
- Cholera
- Cryptosporidiosis
- Diphtheria
- E.coli. 0517:H7
- E.coli shiga toxin positive
- Encephalitis, California group
- Encephalitis, Eastern equine
- Encephalitis St. Louis
- *Encephalitis,Venezuelan Equine
- Encephalitis, Western
- Encephalitis, West Nile
- Haemophilus influenza invasive disease
- Hansen disease
- Hantavirus infection
- Hepatitis A
- Listeriosis
- Measles
- Meningococcal infections
- Pertussis
- *Plague
- Poliomyelitis
- Psittacosis
- *Q Fever
- Rabies, animal
- Rabies, human
- Rubella
- Rubella syndrome - congenital
- Salmonellosis
- Shigellosis
- *Smallpox
- Syphilis, primary, secondary, early latent or congenital
- Tetanus
- *Tularemia
- Typhoid fever
- Vibro parahaemolyticus
- Vibrio vulnificus
- *Viral Hemorrhagic fevers
- Yellow fever

**Possible indicator of bioterrorism*

REPORT WITHIN ONE (1) BUSINESS DAY

- Food borne outbreak
- Hepatitis B infection in a pregnant woman or child born in or after 1992
- Hepatitis B, acute
- Mumps
- Streptococcal disease invasive Group A
- Toxic Shock Syndrome
- Tuberculosis
- Waterborne outbreak

REPORT WITHIN FIVE (5) BUSINESS DAYS

- AIDS
- Chancroid
- Chlamydia trachomatis infection
- Ehrlichiosis
- Gonorrhea
- Granuloma inguinale
- Hepatitis C, acute
- Histoplasmosis
- HIV infection
- Lead poisoning
- Legionellosis
- Lyme disease
- Lymphogranuloma venereum
- Malaria
- Rabies, post exposure prophylaxis
- Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever
- Streptococcus pneumoniae, drug resistant invasive disease
- Syphilis, other than primary, secondary, early latent, or congenital
- Toxoplasmosis



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